

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 25 No. 7

July 2009

Ceilidh Ceilidh Ceilidh

Who: MSSSI members and guests **What:** Annual Ceilidh
When: August 1, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Where:** St. Luke's Lutheran-G'town Pkwy

We are having a BBQ dinner and are asking you to provide the sides and the desserts. I have invited Larkin Bryant to be our guest musician to provide us with dinner music. All of this for the small donation of \$5 a head. This is to try and recoup the cost of the evening and keep the costs as reasonable as possible. If you just can't swing the monies and still would like to come, just come on and we won't say a thing.

Now pay close attention - this is the most important part of the evening. After the meal is done, it will be time to strut your stuff out on the floor and give us your best rendition of what ever you care to share with us.

You can sing us a song, dance a jig, twirl a baton, blow a bagpipe, clog a bit for us, tell a story, etc. etc. etc. This is the part where I would like to try and establish some semblance of order. If you are willing to give us a bit, please let me know so we can keep the evening moving and the entertainment varied. I will give you fair warning: August 1 is the first date I am going to try to start singing again. Hopefully, it will be mutually enjoyable.

I am in need of help in the set up and clean up afterwards. How 'bout bringing some flowers for the tables, from yours or your neighbor's yards? Who amongst you is willing to come a little early and stay a little late to make sure we take care of the facilities. I plan to arrive at 5:00 to get the tables and chairs set up and ready to go. Look forward to seeing you there! Sammy Rich



Memphis Scottish Society Inc., Board

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Mary Ann Lucas 725-1879

maryann.lucas@memphisscots.com

Vice President

Sammy Rich 272-7159

sammy.rich@memphisscots.com

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louis.garner@memphisscots.com

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george.malone@memphisscots.com

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sue.mcdoniel@memphisscots.com

Geoffery Meece 388-0441

geoffrey.meece@memphisscots.com

Becky Trafford 385-7628

becky.trafford@memphisscots.com

SCOTTISH CONNECTION

There have been so many shenanigans in government lately that an army of Philadelphia lawyers couldn't get the rascals acquitted. Did you know that the term "Philadelphia lawyer" has a **Scottish Connection?**

Though it had by 1788 come to be applied to any particularly well-skilled lawyer, one savvy in the "most detailed and minute points of law", its origin began in 1735 when Scottish-born Andrew Hamilton (1676 - 1741) successfully defended John Peter Zenger, a printer and newspaper publisher, who had been accused of libel. Hamilton used what was then a novel and unestablished strategy - the truth as a defense

against libel.

The victory went well beyond libel cases in particular and the justice system in general: it became the basis of the principle of freedom of speech and the press, a vital point at this critical time in the young nation's development.

Hamilton additionally helped design Independence Hall in Philadelphia, served as Pennsylvania's attorney general from 1729 - 1739, and was elected to the state legislature in 1727, to its Speaker of the House in 1729. Hamilton and his sons founded the city of Lancaster, PA, and it is for him that the Hamilton Watch Company is named.

So, when you observe a Philadelphia lawyer in action, or recall the 1st Amendment, or check the time on your Hamilton watch, remember Andrew Hamilton and his **Scottish Connection.**

From Wikipedia.com and from Merriam-Webster's website.

Thanks to Sammy Rich for passing along this info.

[Editor's Note: There is an earlier Scottish-born Andrew Hamilton (no relation) in colonial-era American history. This one served as the Crown-appointed Governor of New Jersey and is credited with starting the first postal service on these shores.)

Did you know?

The game of golf originated on the sandy hills of Scotland, on a type of terrain known as "links" or "linksland." Eventually, the game's layout came to be called by the same name as the land, and "links" developed the meaning of "a golf course built on the coastline," which eventually broadened to include any golf course. "Links" is ultimately derived from the Old English word "hlinca" (the plural of "hlinc,"

meaning "ridge"). Recorded evidence of "hlinca" (a variant of "hlinca") goes back as far as 931, but "links" began appearing in English only in the 15th century. Britain has a number of old-fashioned links courses (built

to resemble the Scottish landscape and located on the coastline), and there are a few in the United States as well. Thanks to Merriam Webster and the Word for the day this little bit of history.



GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Mary Ann Lucas - maryann.lucas@memphisscots.com Editor, (901-725-1879)
 Sammy Rich - sammy.rich@memphisscots.com Publisher, (901-272-7159)
 Gavin Anderson - gavin.anderson@memphisscots.com Circulation Editor, (901-485-8270)
 Melissa Gibson - melissa.gibson@memphisscots.com Line Editor, (901-299-3170)
 Information - info@memphisscots.com (901-757-4200)

Please address all correspondence to:

Grace Notes
 The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
 gracenotes@memphisscots.com
 P. O. Box 241934
 Memphis, TN 38124-1934

*to foster education and
 promote understanding of
 things Scottish*



LITTLE KNOWN TIDBIT OF NAVAL HISTORY

The U. S. S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last for six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and

shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland.. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.

GO NAVY!!!



Just some crude math on my part and I came up with the consumption of 2.8 gallons of rum per day per man on voyage out and 3.5 gallons of single malt scotch on the return home. I will not be offended in the least if you want to check my math on

this one. My calculation does not include the 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine, which I assumed they used for cooking and didn't drink it!

I counted 108 days between July 27 and Nov. 12 and 147,700 gallons of rum and between

475 men for the voyage out and 40,000 gallons of single malt scotch for the return trip home which took 24 days. Now we know how they got people to join the navy.

Robin Barr stands down as chairman of Irn-Bru . . . and takes the secret recipe with him

Coca-Cola, it is said, once sent out an edict to its senior sales team to find out why Scotland was the only country in Europe in which it was not king of the fizzy drinks. The bemused executives did not have to look far: the answer lay in a peculiar, orange- coloured beverage to which the Scots were addicted.

Not whisky, no, but Scotland's other national drink, as Irn-Bru was known for years. AG Barr, makers of the exceedingly sweet pop - vile tasting to those not weaned on it, but beloved by those who were - announced profits up nearly 10 per cent to £23.4million last January, on a turn-over of £169.7million.

Robin Barr, one of only two people who know the secret recipe for Irn-Bru, stepped down yesterday after 31 years as chairman. Mr Barr, 71, whose great-grandfather concocted the drink 108 years ago, is passing the job to someone outside the family, a first for the company.

The secret recipe - which some suspect is sugar, sugar and more sugar - will remain in the family, with Mr Barr passing the formula to his daughter Julie, the company secretary.

Mr Barr, who will continue as a non-executive director, said yesterday that his company had managed to withstand the attack from Coca-Cola "thus far ... and there is no reason to suppose we can't continue. The secret of selling a brand or maintaining a brand is of course consistency. You can't do

it by spending a lot of money this year and having a holiday next year: it's got to be a continuous long-term process and to a degree that's what makes it easier if it's a family business."

Known simply as "ginger" in the West of Scotland, Irn-Bru has many things going for it, not least that it is famed as a hangover cure in a nation with an alcohol problem. It also appeals to the legendary Scottish sweet tooth, although Barr does not like to be reminded of its responsibilities to country's abysmal dental health or obesity statistics.

Fundamental to Irn-Bru's success has been its adverts, which chime with Scotland's dark sense of humour, from the slogan "Made in Scotland, from girders" to the posters of a toothless old lady saying: "Give us your Irn-Bru or I'll snog you."

There has been controversy about their lack of taste. Three years ago, Strathclyde Police complained about one advert, which they felt glamorised violence, but the accusation was dismissed by the Advertising Standards Authority. The most recent campaign is a spoof of High School Musical, set at the fictional Auchendookit Senior High.

Ed Brooke, from the Leith Agency, which runs the campaign, told The Times: "I think Irn-Bru ads have been famously down to earth and a little bit cheeky. They refuse to take themselves too seriously and I think it's this mixture of honest irreverence that sets them apart from other ads.

"Sometimes the creation of these ads takes a degree of bravery and conviction from those involved in the process and Barr's have always been exceptional judges and supporters of a good

idea even if the [ads] are sometimes a little risqué. Irn-Bru is a fabric brand in Scotland - drunk by a wide range of Scots so we have to be mindful that anything we produce has pretty broad appeal."

During his years in charge Mr Barr diversified the interests of the company, most recently adding the fruit juice range Rubicon to its portfolio. His successor is Ronnie Hanna, 66, a chartered accountant who has served on the company's board for five years.

The Cumberbauld-based business is praised by City analysts for its steady performance. Nicola Mallard, from Investec, said: "AG Barr has proved to be a consistent deliverer, outperforming the soft drink category even in a tough climate."

Always fizzing with ideas

— AG Barr was formed in 1875 when Robert Barr embarked on a new direction for the family cork-cutting business with the sale of aerated waters and in 1901, the company began making "Iron Brew". Within a generation the Barr family had another factory in the East End of Glasgow and were competing with hundreds of soft drinks factories.

— During the early 20th century, a time of poor sanitation, drinking water and diet, many people living in industrial cities regarded soft drinks as good for them - a guaranteed way to give them a dose of energy through the sugar content.

— AG Barr was always innovative in its marketing. In the Thirties it dreamt up the cartoon strip Adventures of Ba-Bru and Sandy, which was inspired by Rudyard Kipling's book Sabu the Elephant Boy.

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The strip, which appeared in Scottish newspapers, introduced generations of Scots to Iron Brew and became the longest running advertising cartoon in history, lasting until the early Seventies.

— The company also engaged many sporting heroes of the day to endorse the brand, including Benny Lynch, the world flyweight Champion in 1935.

— In 1947 the drink was renamed Irn Bru after concerns over new food labelling regulations - it did contain iron but its was not brewed.

— Under Robin Barr, the great-grandson of the company's founder, AG Barr diversified. In addition to Irn-Bru it produces Tizer, Strathmore and Orangina and most recently the fruit juice rage Rubicon. Melanie Reid

The following is just one of many written about Irn Bru.

Ode to Irn Bru (By a non-drunk kippenite)

Your colour devine,
haha, your mine,
orange and tangy,
you are the most incredible taste,
I'll ever know, I'll hit the post,
in my haste,
to forth and go,
to the shops to buy another bottle,
of the best drink in the world.

Irn bru, you taste so magnificent.
Irn Bru, you look so delectable.
Tho you pickle my insides,
I can't get enough of you...

Throwing back a couple of
glasses,
cheering are the crowded masses,
and choking while you glide,
frothing and fizzing you slide,
hitting the back of my
throat, smugly, I gloat,
cos I have lots of your awesome-
ness,
while others simply don't.

Irn bru, you taste so magnificent.
Irn Bru, you look so delectable.
Tho you pickle my insides,
I can't get enough of you...

Oh that wonderful taste,
brings tears to my eyes chaste,
licking my lips in abandon,
and knowing it isn't random,
to reach for another vessel of
pleasure,
tracing its shape at my leisure,
what a great shape it is,
bottle - like and smooth,
just the shape, to sooth,
the aches and pains of the night.

Irn bru, you taste so magnificent.
Irn Bru, you look so delectable.
Tho you pickle my insides,
I can't get enough of you...



Letter To The Board

The board received this letter
and I would like your feedback
as to your interest!

I came upon your society's website, very much liked it, and wanted to drop you a note. I am with the Ulster Heritage Project and we deal with many Scottish themes ourselves. The project is run by myself, Barry R McCain, in Oxford, Mississippi, by Jim McKane in Warton, Ontario, Canada, and our headquarters in Ireland is in Ballybofey.

I write for The Highlander magazine from time to time, and write for the Finn Valley Voice newspaper, Ireland's Own, etc. I also run the Ulster Heritage DNA Project (addresses below), I did the DNA project that located both the Glencoe and Ardnamurchan McDonald families. We promote Scots-Irish events, and a whole gambit of Ulster-Scot related themes.

Also, we also do talks and seminars, concerning Ulster Scots and genetic genealogy should you ever need something of that nature. We have already successfully helped many families in the Mid South, recover their lost history and reconnect with their relatives in Ulster and Scotland. I located John McCain's cousins in Ireland and Scotland last year in fact. I was a speaker at both the 16th Biennial Ulster-American Heritage Symposium in Knoxville, and the 17th symposium in Omagh, County, Tyrone, N Ireland.

I'd love to communicate with your society and hear about its upcoming projects.

Cheers, agus is mise le meas mór,

Barry R McCain

Ulster Heritage Project

<http://uhblog.ulsterheritage.com/> (the Ulster Heritage Magazine)

Isle of Lewis Chess Set

In the sand dunes off the coast of the Isle of Lewis, about 50 miles west of the Scottish mainland, near the south shore of 'the Bay of Ulg' --- on a spring day in 1831, an unsuspecting peasant saw an exposed area showing an ancient crypt which is estimated to have been nearly seven hundred years old.

Being curious, he stumbled into an ancient and cramped dry stone room, six feet or so long and shaped like a beehive, with ashes strewn on the floor. The tiny room was filled, impossibly, with dozens of tiny lifelike statuettes three to four inches high. Some were stained beet-red, and the rest had a natural off white finish. The long hair, contoured faces and proportionate bodies were eerily vivid with wide-eyed expressions and battle ready stance, and with a full compliment



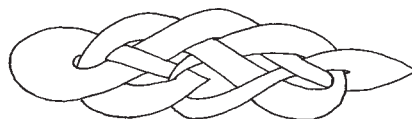
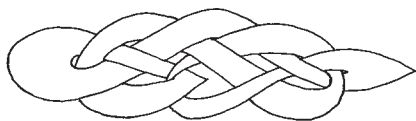
of medieval combat equipment and apparel.

They were hand carved. They wore tiny crowns, mitres and helmets, held miniature swords, shields, spears, and bishop's croziers. Some rode war horses. They were chess pieces, a total of 78 figurines, comprising four incomplete sets. 8 kings, 8 queens, 16 bishops, 15 knights, 12 warders

(as rooks), and 19 pawns, nothing like them had ever been seen before. They had a gothic quality and look of Scandinavian origin and probably mid-12th century.

This area had politically been subject to the kingdom of Norway, until 1266. Their artistry and condition made them among the most important cache of ancient pieces yet found. The society of antiquaries of Scotland

tried to buy them, but unable to find the funds and a wealthy Scottish collector managed to purchase 11 pieces for himself and the British museum in London, bought the remaining 67 pieces for what is now around \$6,000 in today's currency. They now sit in sealed glass cases in gallery 42, where any one can see them.



It has been several months now since we have run a Flowers of the Forest in "Grace Notes" and it is not the fault of anyone but myself. If the remembrance of your loved one has been left out of "Grace

Notes", please accept my sincere apology.

The information has come to me, but the skill to do everything I like to do in "Grace Notes" is not always there and I have to rely on those with more

skill than I. So please take this little blurb as my intention to try and acknowledge my shortcomings with this regard. srich



Flowers of the Forest

Our condolences to Seldon Murray in the passing of his mother, Corrine Murray of Hollins, VA. Mrs. Murray was a lifelong member of Christ Episcopal Church in Roanoke, VA. She was also the retired regional director of the Lung Association for Southwest Virginia and was a founder of the library system for Roanoke County.

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Com-
munion, Walnut Grove at
Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

**Sgt.W.K.Singleton Pipes &
Drums**
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bar-
lett; call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at
St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway.
753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm,
Idlewild Presbyterian;
1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889
2nd, & 4th Friday:
Scottish Country Dancing.

Sundays

NEAC Pipes and Drums
1:30-4:00
First Presbyterian Church;
Southwest Dr
Jonesboro, AR exit 45

Monday, July 13

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli @
Poplar & Highland

For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program:
Dr. Richard White
"The Wrestling Celts"

Thursday, July 30

Board Meeting at 5:45
St. Lukes Lutheran
2000 N Gtown Pkwy

Saturday, August 1

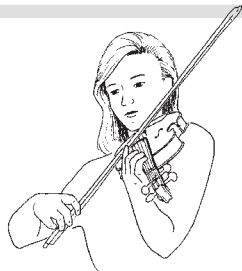
MSSI Ceilidh
6:00 PM
St. Luke's Lutheran

Scottish - Celtic RadioShows

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.
"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1
p.m. "Strands of the Celtic
Knot" Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and
Fridays, 7 p.m.
"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3



the Thistle & Shamrock®

July 9: On the Road

Itinerant work ways are cel-
ebrated this week in traditional
songs, while today's working
musicians offer us contempo-
rary verses of the travelling
musician's lifestyle.

July 16: Celtic Show Bands

With a diverse array of instru-
ments, including big band-style
brass sections, we hear en-
sembles that blend traditional
and contemporary melodies to
create big cutting-edge grooves.

July 23: Words Verses Music

Poetry tells the story this week,
with songs and tunes inspired
by poets' lives and works.

July 30: Two Shoogles

Meet Luke Plumb, the mando-
lin player from Tasmania and
West Highland fiddler Angus
Grant, both of whom are active
on the session scene between
recording and touring with the
globetrotting band Shooglenif-
ty.

August 6: New World Re- leases

Hear tracks from the latest
albums by North American
artists who work to expand the
reach of Celtic traditions.

PLAN AHEAD

It's not too early to plan for a little more culture in life.

First, (after the Summer Ceilidh) make sure Clanjamfry is marked on your calendars for September 25 – 27. Then, there's the Halloween Party, St. Andrew's Day Tea, and Christmas party. Burns Nicht (tickets for which will go on sale at Clanjamfry) follows at the end of January.

With all that there will still be room on your dance card for a special event at GPAC on Friday,

March 26th. Celtic Crossroads is described thus:

"Critically acclaimed as the most exhilarating and authentic show to come from Ireland in decades, Celtic Crossroads abounds with fusions of traditional Irish music, bluegrass, gypsy, and jazz, while pulsating with the rhythms of exciting Irish dance percussion. Spontaneous mid-show ovations are the norm, and enraptured Celtic Crossroads audiences are compelled to shout for more!"

Now, tickets to this ain't cheap (is anything these days?), but full price tickets come as low as \$20. There are discounts for groups of 10 or more, and a club volunteer would have plenty of time to co-ordinate with MSSI members and their guests who would like to catch this unique show. Is that volunteer you? Great – let Prez Mary Ann Lucas know. (Hint: she and her ever faithful Jim will be your 1st 2 ticketees.)

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, July 13th

Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland

Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Dr. Richard White "The Wrestling Celts"

Regular Board Meeting, July 30th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 241934

Memphis, TN 38124-1934

